

Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday May 18, 2023 Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Anne Brown, Sheila Connerney, Nancy Cox, Mahendra Desai, Rick Fentin, Sherry Graham, Mary Hung, Michael Quinn, Bob Tosi Jr., Marjorie Vanderhill

Present from community: Pat O'Connell and a group of five residents supporting the Senior Parking Permit Program, Rebecca Gruber

Location: This meeting was conducted in a hybrid format.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

Michael Quinn, Chair

Sheila Connerney, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order at 6:03pm
2. Citizen's Open Forum - none
3. Minutes of the April 2023 meeting for approval

Anne Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Nancy Cox seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Report: Executive Director
5. Report of the Chair

The Chair has one more year in his term. He is looking for a potential Vice Chair or someone to succeed him in one year.

6. ACPAC Sub-Committee Update: the committee has interviewed all candidates and will be making a decision over the next week on who will be appointed from the COA
7. Report: MCOA Board Training on 5/4

Sherry and Sheila reported on their experience at MCOA Board Training. Importance placed on becoming more engaged with the local senior community. Everyone will plan to talk at the next meeting about what drew them to serve on the board.

8. Report: Minuteman Senior Services

Fundraiser walk/run is upcoming. Go to minutemansenior.org to find volunteer openings.

9. Old Business

10. New Business

Town Day will be September 23, 2023, from 10:30am to 4:30pm. Volunteer opportunities are available.

11. Other Community Announcements

12. Adjourn

Anne Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Cox seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm.

Next meeting: June 15, 2023

Executive Director's Report: Kristine Shah

I. COA Programs & Services Update

- a. Updated numbers since April 2022: 2,900+ individuals have been involved with the COA through programs, activities, services, or all. 9,431 rides have been provided to 800 individuals. 283 current volunteers.
- b. Upcoming Programs/Activities Highlights: Outdoor Jazz Concert/Picnic on July 20, Summer Vintage Tea June 15, Elder Law Program June 13, Lahey Farm Share Distribution starts again June 13, Local News in 2023 Talk, Modern Pronouns Talk July 19, Robbins Gardens History Talk June 26, Stroke Awareness June 20

II. Budget Updates

- a. Applying for the following new grants for FY24: \$10,000 Title IIIB Funding through Minuteman Senior Services and \$35,000 from MassDOT Community Transit Grants for out of town medical appointment transportation.
- b. Sevoyer Personal Needs Fund is depleted for FY23
 1. Requests being fulfilled using Sussman Fund, Widows Fund and New Emergency Assistance Fund until Sevoyer can be replenished in September.

III. Age & Dementia Friendly Initiatives, Advocacy Opportunities:

- a. Senior Parking Permits, Select Board Presentation
- b. Older Adult Homelessness Prevention: <https://tinyurl.com/bridgefy24>
- c. Advocacy for "Formula Grant" (\$14 per older adult in FY24). Included in Governor's Budget, House Budget, Senate Ways & Means Committee Budget (Line Item 9110-9002).
- d. Advocacy for Senior Circuit Breaker (potential to increase to \$2,400 from \$1,200 in FY24)

IV. Other

a. COA Staff Highlight – Marci Shapiro-Ide, Social Worker